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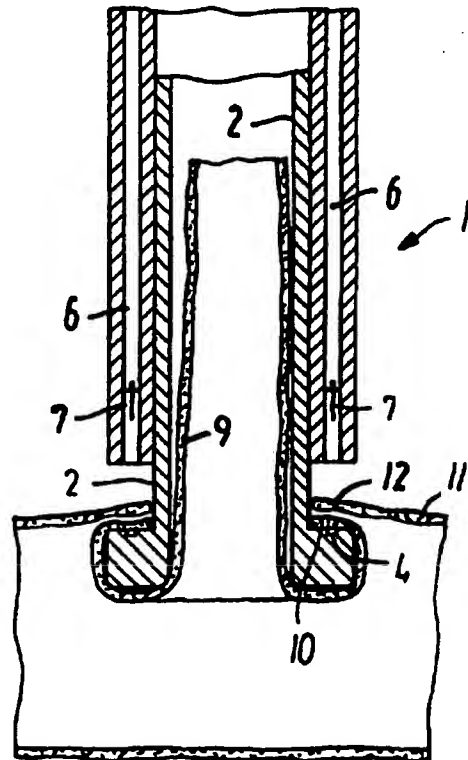
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(54) Title: METHOD AND ANASTOMOTIC INSTRUMENT FOR USE WHEN PERFORMING AN END-TO-SIDE ANASTOMOSIS

(57) Abstract

When performing an end-to-side anastomosis connecting the end (10) of a first vessel (9) to the edge region (12) around an opening in the side wall of a second vessel (11), an instrument (1) is used having a circumferential stapling anvil (3) secured to an anvil tube (2) accommodating the first vessel (9), the end of which is everted about the anvil (3) with the intima of the end region (10) facing the intima of the edge region (12), when the instrument (1) with the first vessel (9) in place has been inserted into the opening in the second vessel (11). Then, a clamping tube (5) is advanced towards the anvil (3), clamping the end (10) and edge region (12) together against the anvil (3). In the next step, a number of stapling plungers (6) carrying staples (7) are advanced towards the anvil (3), the latter having staple-bending surfaces (4), thus stapling the two vessels together in a manner not shown. Finally, the clamping tube (5) and the stapling plungers (6) are withdrawn, and the whole instrument removed from the anastomosis.



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METHOD AND ANASTOMOTIC INSTRUMENT FOR USE WHEN PERFORMING
AN END-TO-SIDE ANASTOMOSIS

TECHNICAL FIELD

5

The present invention relates to a method of the kind set forth in the preamble of claim 1.

BACKGROUND ART

10

A method of this kind is disclosed in the international application having the publication No. WO 95/17128. In this previously known method, the means used for inter-connecting the two vessels consisted of an open springy
15 brace carrying spikes and being capable of being bent elastically so as to make its free ends cross each other, said spikes forming angles with the brace gradually diminishing from acute angles at the free ends to substantially right angles mid-way between them. When
20 released from the anastomotic instrument holding the brace in the elastically bent condition, it would bring the spikes into engagement with the regions to be joined so as to penetrate the latter and so to speak nail them together.

25

Extra-clinical trials have, however, shown that one can not always be certain that all the spikes have penetrated through the parts concerned of the two vessels to be joined, this probably being due to the limited elastic
30 force available from the springy brace.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is the object of the present invention to provide a

method of the kind referred to above, with which it is possible to achieve a more reliable connection between the two vessels forming the anastomosis, and this object is achieved by proceeding as set forth in the characterizing clause of claim 1. With this arrangement, the parts concerned of the two vessels to be joined are connected to each other through a stapling operation based on the same principles as other surgical stapling devices and - incidentally - ordinary office staplers.

As already indicated above, the use of stapling devices in surgical work is not unknown, but until now only in situations, in which it is possible to move the organ or organs to be operated upon from their normal position in the patient's body, such as in the abdominal cavity, to a position - not infrequently outside the patient's body - in which the anvil member, against which the staples are bent (corresponding to the lower part of an office stapler), can be placed on the side of the joint concerned facing away from the stapling plungers (corresponding to the plunger in the top part of an office stapler). Thus, the present invention is the first to offer what could be called "in-situ stapling". To make this possible, the present invention prescribes the use of an anastomosis instrument capable of performing the following four functions:

- a guiding function, i.e. guiding the instrument carrying the first vessel into the opening having been formed in the side of the second vessel,
- 30 - an arranging function, i.e. urging the edge of the opening to the second vessel into a shape and position corresponding to the shape and position of the end region of the first vessel preparatory to
- a stapling function, in which the parts of the two

vessels having been brought into contact through the arranging function are positively joined by a stapling operation, and

- a removal function, in which the instrument after completion of the stapling operation is removed from the joint formed by being luxated out of the pocket formed on the everted end of the first vessel, said pocket then unfolding simultaneously with a slight withdrawal of the first vessel.

At this point it should be emphasized that, using a preferred embodiment of the instrument, in which there is a rigid mechanical connection between the anvil member and the part of the instrument adapted to be gripped manually by the operating surgeon, both the guiding function and the arranging function referred to above may be carried out with the best possible "feel", as the surgeon will be able to sense manually any objects encountered by the anvil member, including - of course - the second vessel and the anastomotic opening formed therein.

All the functions described above may be carried out without removing the organs concerned through any significant distance away from their normal functional position in the body, making the method according to the invention eminently suitable for coronary by-pass operations. Thus, the expression "in-situ stapling" would appear justified.

The present invention also relates to an anastomotic instrument for carrying out the method according to the invention, and this instrument is characterized by the features set forth in claim 2.

Advantageous embodiments of the anastomotic instrument according to the invention, the effects of which - beyond what is self-evident - are explained in the following detailed part of the present description, are set forth
5 in claims 3-12.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 10 In the following detailed part of the present description, the invention will be explained in more detail with reference to the exemplary embodiments of an anastomotic instrument according to the invention shown in the drawings, in which
- 15 Figures 1-8 show the process of performing an end-to-side anastomosis using an anastomotic instrument according to the invention, in Figures 1-7 being drawn in a highly simplified manner for ease of understanding,
- 20 Figures 9-12 in perspective and with certain parts cut away show a practical embodiment of an anastomotic instrument with the various possible relative positions of the relatively movable parts, and
- 25 Figure 13 at a highly enlarged scale shows a part of the instrument shown in Figure 1 with modified clamping surfaces.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

30

As mentioned above, the embodiment shown in Figures 1-8 of the anastomosis instrument according to the present invention constitutes a simplified version with the primary purpose of explaining the invention; this does

not, however, preclude the possibility of using this embodiment in actual practice.

Thus, Figure 1 shows an anastomosis instrument 1 consisting of three main components that are movable relative to each other in the longitudinal direction, i.e. in the direction shown as the vertical direction in Figure 1:

- an anvil tube 2,
- 10 - a clamping tube 5, and
- a set of stapling plungers 6.

On its lower end, the anvil tube 2 carries an anvil 3, the upper side of which is provided with a number of staple-bending recesses 4 adapted to cooperate with and bend an equal number of staples 7, in the situation shown in Figure 1 being temporarily held lightly in an equal number of staple-holding recesses 8 formed in the lower ends of the stapling plungers 6.

20 Figure 2 shows the situation, in which the instrument is made ready for use by the operating surgeon. As mentioned initially, the anastomosis instrument according to the present invention is primarily developed for use when performing coronary bypass operations, and to this end, a bypass vessel 9 - that may be a vein taken from some other part of the patient's body - has been inserted in the anvil tube with its lower end everted about the anvil 3 and with its end region 10 covering the staple-bending recesses 4 in the upper surface of the anvil 3. At this point it should be noted that the bypass vessel 9 may have a considerably larger circumference than the inside of the anvil tube 2, consequently lying more or less folded in the longitudinal direction in the latter, for

which reason the action of everting its end region 10 about the anvil 3 does not necessarily entail undue stretching of the bypass vessel 9.

5 Figure 3 shows the instrument having been made ready as shown in Figure 2 inserted in an opening in a coronary artery 11, said opening having an edge region 12 which, due to the elasticity of the tissue of the coronary artery 11, will embrace the anvil tube 2 in a location close to
10 the anvil 3. The opening in the coronary artery 11 may e.g. have been formed according to the method described in the international application with publication No. WO 95/17127 with the title "Method and instrument for establishing the receiving side of a coronary artery
15 bypass graft".

As soon as the operating surgeon in the situation shown in Figure 3 has ascertained that the edge region 12 embraces the anvil tube 2 closely on all sides, he or
20 she will proceed to the situation shown in Figure 4, in which the clamping tube 5 has been moved towards the anvil 3 so as to clamp the edge region 12 on the coronary artery 11 and the end region 10 on the bypass vessel 9 firmly together in readiness for the next step shown in
25 Figure 5, in which the stapling plungers 6 have been moved downwardly so as to cause the staples 7 to penetrate the edge region 12 and the end region 10 and engage the staple-bending recesses 4, by which they will be bent in a tangential direction in a similar manner as is known
30 from both surgical staplers and ordinary office staplers.

In the situation shown in Figure 6, the clamping tube 5 together with the stapling plungers 6 have been moved outwardly and away from the staples 7, the staple-holding

recesses 8 due to their light holding action having let go of the staples 7, the latter also having been anchored in the end region 10 by their bent ends.

5 Figure 7 shows the situation, in which the operation of removing the anastomosis instrument 1 from the coronary artery 11 and its anastomosis with the bypass vessel 9 has begun. As will be seen from Figures 6 and 7, the circumferential pocket formed by the eversion of the lower
10 end of the bypass vessel 9 will now open and allow the anvil 3 to be removed by luxation, Figure 8 showing the situation after such removal, resulting in a finished anastomosis of the intima-to-intima type considered most desirable for this type of operation.

15 The three main components of the anastomosis instrument 1 referred to above, i.e. the anvil tube 2, the clamping tube 5 and the set of stapling plungers 6, will, of course, have to be connected to some kind of operating
20 members to enable the operating surgeon and his or her assistants to carry out the steps shown in Figures 1-8. Theoretically, these operating members could consist of three tubes (not shown), viz.

- 25 - a relatively long holding tube in continuation of the anvil tube 2,
- a somewhat shorter clamping tube in continuation of the clamping tube 5, and
- an even shorter stapling tube, to which the stapling plungers 6 are connected.

30 As is well-known, however, coronary bypass operations, especially according to the method of the international application referred to above, should be carried out as rapidly as possible, and for this reason, the

"theoretical" embodiment shown in Figures 1-7 is too cumbersome to work with to ensure a sufficiently rapid operating procedure. As mentioned above, Figures 9-12 illustrate an embodiment of an anastomosis instrument according to the present invention, that is highly suitable for creating an end-to-side anastomosis in a very short time.

Due to the construction of the instrument shown in Figures 9-12 it is not possible to make an easily understandable drawing in the nature of the simple drawings of Figures 1-7. For this reason, the "active" parts of the instrument have been shown in perspective, and with the exception of the anvil and its supporting columns, with one half removed along a longitudinal sectional plane, so that the remaining half can be seen partly from the inside, partly from the outside. In Figures 9-12, those of the components functionally corresponding to components shown in Figures 1-7 have been given the same reference numbers with 100 added, whereas components not having "opposite numbers" in Figures 1-7 have been given the reference numbers of the components, with which they are most closely associated, with the addition of a capital letter.

As shown in Figure 9, the anastomosis instrument 101 comprises a number of parts functionally corresponding to parts of the instrument shown in Figures 1-7, viz.:

- an anvil tube 102,
- an anvil 103,
- a clamping tube 105, and
- a set of stapling plungers 106.

Although the basic functions of these parts are the same as the basic functions of the corresponding parts in the embodiment of Figures 1-7, the arrangement differs

somewhat from that of the latter, as will be evident from the following.

In contrast to the anvil tube 2 of Figure 1, the anvil
5 tube 102 of Figure 9 extends on the outside of the
instrument and is terminated by an end wall 102A, to
which the anvil 103 is secured at a distance by means of
two columns, viz. an upstream column 103A and a downstream
column 103B. The expressions "upstream" and "downstream"
10 refer to the direction of blood flow in the artery, in
which the instrument 101 is intended to be used in
creating an end-to-side anastomosis.

To make it possible to insert the bypass vessel (not
15 shown) corresponding to the bypass vessel 9 shown in
Figures 1-8, all transversely oriented components have
suitable openings, of which the forwardmost opening 103C
is formed in the anvil 103, the latter being provided
with staple-bending recesses 104 having the same function
20 as the staple-bending recesses 4 shown in Figure 1.

As will be seen from Figures 9-12, the various components
are not rotationally symmetrical about the longitudinal
axis of the instrument, as the anvil 103 has been made
25 "boat-shaped" to make it easier to insert it in the
opening in the artery and to make it easier for the edges
of the opening to fit in with the upper side of the anvil
103 with the stapling recesses 104.

30 Due to the arrangement of the anvil tube 102 as the
outermost component terminated by the end wall 102A, it
is not possible in this embodiment to let the clamping
tube 105 extend in its full circumferential width all
the way towards the upper face of the anvil 103. For

this reason, the clamping tube 105 is terminated by an end wall 105A, from which a set of clamping columns 105B extend in the forward (downward) direction through suitable openings in the anvil tube end wall 102A.

5

The stapling plungers 106 are guided in the longitudinal direction in suitable guides in the clamping columns 105B, and their rearmost (uppermost) ends are secured to a stapling plunger carrier 106A, itself secured to and terminating a stapling tube 106B, through which the force for actuating the stapling plungers 106 may be transmitted from a suitable operating device. Figures 9-12 show neither staples corresponding to the staples 7 of Figure 1 nor staple-holding recesses corresponding to the staple-holding recesses 8 shown in Figure 1, but it will be understood that the forwardmost (lowermost) ends of the stapling plungers 106 will be provided with suitable staple-holding recesses capable of holding staples in such a position, that when the stapling plungers 106 are advanced towards the anvil 103, the staples will be bent by the staple-bending recesses 104 in the usual manner.

The relative positions of the various parts as shown in Figure 9 correspond to those shown in Figures 1-3, i.e. there is a sufficient distance between the rearward (upper) face of the anvil 103 and the forward (downward) ends of the clamping columns 105B to accomodate the everted end region of the bypass vessel corresponding to the end region 10 shown in Figure 2, as well as the edge region of the coronary artery concerned corresponding to the edge region 12 of the coronary artery 11 shown in Figure 3.

The situation shown in Figure 10 corresponds to that

shown in Figure 4, i.e. the clamping columns 105B have been advanced towards the anvil 103, in Figure 10 leaving a gap symbolizing the presence of the end region of the bypass vessel and the edge region of the coronary artery (all not shown). The movement of the clamping columns 105B has, of course, been effected by advancing the clamping tube 105 to the same extent. To prevent said end and edge regions being crushed in the clamping operation, suitable stops (not shown) are adapted to stop the movement of the clamping columns 105B towards the anvil 103 so as to leave a gap just sufficient to hold them firmly together. To improve the grip, the clamping surfaces may be provided with elastically flexible fins or fingers. Figure 13 shows how this concept could be applied to the embodiment shown in Figures 1-7, it being - of course - equally applicable to that shown in Figures 9-12.

The relative positions shown in Figure 11 correspond to those shown in Figure 5, i.e. the stapling plungers 106 have now been advanced, guided by the clamping columns 105B so as to bring the staples (not shown) into engagement with the staple-bending recesses 104, thus joining the end region of the bypass vessel to the edge region of the coronary artery (all not shown).

The relative positions shown in Figure 12 correspond to those shown in Figures 6 and 7 and with the exception that in Figure 12, the stapling plungers 106 have not only been withdrawn from the staples joining the two vessels, but have in fact been removed completely from the instrument to make it possible to insert a new set of staples, that may be of the disposable or semi-disposable type.

With the arrangement shown in Figures 9-12, the operating surgeon may literally have a firm grip on the situation by holding the outermost component, i.e. the anvil tube 102, which is rigidly connected to the anvil 103 through the columns 103A and 103B, so that he or she will be able to move the anvil 103 with the everted end of the bypass vessel into the opening in the coronary artery by direct manual control, and - not least - by "direct mechanical feedback", as the rigid mechanical interconnection between the anvil 103 og the anvil tube 102 enables the surgeon to "feel" whatever object is encountered by the anvil. Advantageously, the rearward (upper) part (not shown) of the instrument may comprise suitable operating devices and/or mechanisms for moving the clamping tube 105 and the stapling plungers 106 relatively to the anvil tube 102 and hence relatively to the anvil 103. Due to the extremely limited time available for performing coronary bypass operations, these operating devices and/or mechanisms should be designed to enable the operating surgeon to initiate the requisite movements rapidly and with a minimum of effort.

Thus, the operating devices and/or mechanisms could be arranged to function under the control of a single operating member, such as a push-button on the rear (upper) end of the instrument adapted to be operated by the surgeon's thumb, in the following manner:

- firstly, when the operating member is moved in a first direction, e.g. a push-button is depressed, the clamping columns 105B will be advanced to their forwardmost (lower) position, in which they clamp the end region of the bypass vessel and the edge region of the opening in the artery together until said stop is reached, and then the stapling plungers 106 will immediately be

actuated to staple the two regions together, after which both the clamping columns 105B and the stapling plungers 106 are withdrawn, e.g. by releasing said push-button, and

- 5 - secondly, immediately upon the operating member moving in the opposite direction, e.g. when the push-button has been released, the mechanism is re-set in readiness for a movement in the first direction, after which the instrument can be removed as described above with
10 reference to Figure 7.

It should be possible for a technician skilled in the art of designing and making surgical instruments comprising operating mechanisms to design and construct
15 an operating device or mechanism capable of operating in the manner described above, for which reason these parts have not been described or shown in detail.

List of Parts

- | | | |
|----|------|------------------------------|
| | 1 | anastomosis instrument |
| | 2 | anvil tube |
| | 3 | anvil |
| 5 | 4 | staple-bending recess |
| | 5 | clamping tube |
| | 6 | stapling plunger |
| | 7 | staple |
| | 8 | staple-holding recess |
| 10 | 9 | bypass vessel |
| | 10 | end region |
| | 11 | coronary artery |
| | 12 | edge region |
| | 13 | fin or finger |
| 15 | | |
| | 101 | anastomosis instrument |
| | 102 | anvil tube |
| | 102A | (anvil tube) end wall |
| | 103 | anvil |
| 20 | 103A | (anvil) upstream column |
| | 103B | (anvil) downstream column |
| | 103C | (anvil) opening |
| | 104 | staple-bending recess |
| | 105 | clamping tube |
| 25 | 105A | (clamping tube) end wall |
| | 105B | clamping column |
| | | (and stapling-plunger guide) |
| | 106 | stapling plunger |
| | 106A | stapling plunger carrier |
| 30 | 106B | stapling tube |

CLAIMS

1. Method of connecting an end region (10) of a first vessel (9) to the side of a second vessel (11) by carrying out an end-to-side anastomosis, said method being of the kind comprising the following steps a-d:
- 5 a) forming an opening in the side of said second vessel (11),
- b) inserting in said opening a generally tubular anastomosis instrument (1; 101) carrying said first vessel (9) in its central longitudinal cavity and with said end region (10) everted about a circumferential member (3; 103) constituting a forward portion of said instrument (1; 101) in such a manner, that the intima side of said end region (10) comes into contact with the intima side of said second vessel (11) at an edge region (12) of said opening,
- 10 c) joining said end region (10) to said edge region (12) by inserting penetratingly therethrough and leaving therein a plurality of spiked members (7),
- 15 and
- d) removing said instrument (1; 101) from the joint formed between said first (9) and second (11) vessels,
- characterized by
- 25 e) the use of an anastomosis instrument (1; 101) comprising
- e1) a first elongate member (2; 102), to one end of which is rigidly secured a circumferential anvil member (3; 103) in such a manner, that said first vessel (9) may be placed within said first elongate member (2; 102) with its end region (10) everted about said anvil member (3; 103) with the terminal part of said end region facing towards the opposite end of said first elongate member (2; 102),
- 30

- e2) staple-bending recesses (4; 104) provided in said anvil member (3; 103) and facing towards said opposite end,
- 5 e3) a second elongate member (5; 105, 105A, 105B) longitudinally moveable relative to said first elongate member (2; 102) and adapted to be moved towards said anvil member (3; 103) so as to make it possible to clamp together therebetween said end region (10) on said first vessel (9) and an edge region (12) on said second vessel (11), and
- 10 e4) stapling plungers (6; 106) longitudinally moveable relative to said first (2; 102) and second (5; 105, 105A, 105B) elongate members and adapted to insert staples (7) penetratingly through said clamped end (10) and edge (12) regions into engagement with said stapling-bending recesses (4; 104) so as to bend permanently said staples (7) into a shape, in which they hold said end (10) and edge (12) regions together.
- 15
- 20
2. Anastomotic instrument (1; 101) for carrying out the method of claim 1, characterized by
- a) a first elongate member (2; 102), to one end of which is rigidly secured a circumferential anvil member (3; 103) in such a manner, that said first vessel (9) may be placed within said first elongate member (2; 102) with its end region (10) everted about said anvil member (3; 103) with the terminal part of said end region facing towards the opposite end of said first elongate member (2; 102),
- 25
- 30 b) staple-bending recesses (4; 104) provided in said anvil member (3; 103) and facing towards said opposite end,
- c) a second elongate member (5; 105, 105A, 105B)

longitudinally moveable relative to said first elongate member (2; 102) and adapted to be moved towards said anvil member (3; 103) so as to make it possible to clamp together therebetween said end region (10) on said first vessel (9) and an edge region (12) on said second vessel (11), and

5 d) stapling plungers (6; 106) longitudinally moveable relative to said first (2; 102) and second (5; 105, 105A, 105B) elongate members and adapted to insert

10 staples (7) penetratingly through said clamped end (10) and edge (12) regions into engagement with said stapling-bending recesses (4; 104) so as to bend permanently said staples (7) into a shape, in which they hold said end (10) and edge (12) regions

15 together.

3. Anastomotic instrument (101) according to claim 2, characterized in that the external surface of said first elongate member (102) constitutes at least a part of the

20 external surface of said instrument (101), so as to make it possible to hold the latter by manually gripping the former.

4. Anastomotic instrument according to claim 3, characterized in that said first elongate member (102)

25 is rigidly connected to said anvil member (103) through an end wall (102A) rigidly secured to or integral with the end of said first elongate member (102) and at least one connecting member (103A, 103B) rigidly secured to

30 said end wall (102A) and said anvil member (103).

5. Anastomotic instrument according to claim 4, characterized in that said second elongate member (105, 105A, 105B) comprises

- a) a rearward part (105) longitudinally moveable in said first elongate member (102),
- b) an intermediate part (105A) rigidly secured to or integral with said rearward part (105) and
- 5 c) a plurality of forward clamping columns, each at the end (105B) being rigidly secured to said intermediate part (105A), extending through said end wall (102A) and each on the opposite end having a clamping surface facing said anvil member (103).
- 10
6. Anastomotic instrument according to any one or any of the claims 2-5, characterized in that each said stapling plunger (106) with a rear end is rigidly secured to a stapling plunger carrier (106A) rigidly secured to
- 15 a third elongate member (106B) longitudinally moveable in said rearward part (105) of said second elongate member (105, 105A, 105B) and with the remainder extending moveably through said intermediate part (105A) and said clamping columns (105B).
- 20
7. Anastomotic instrument (1; 101) according to any one or any of the claims 2-6, characterized by such an arrangement that said second elongate member (5; 105, 105A, 105B) can only be advanced relative to said first
- 25 elongate member (2; 102) and said anvil member (3; 103) to an extent leaving a gap slightly smaller than the combined thickness of said end region (10) and said edge region (12), said movement being limited e.g. by a suitable stop member.
- 30
8. Anastomotic instrument according to claim 7, characterized by a mechanism adapted to move said second elongate member (105, 105A, 105B) and said stapling plungers (106) relative to said first elongate member

(102) and said anvil member (103) in dependence on the movement of a single operating member moveable in a first direction and then returnable in the opposite direction in the following manner:

- 5 a) when said operating member is moved in said first direction, said second elongate member (105, 105A, 105B) is advanced to said limiting position leaving said gap immediately upon which said stapling plungers (106) are actuated to join said end region
10 (10) to said edge region (12), immediately upon which both said second elongate member (105, 105A, 105B) and said stapling plungers (106) are withdrawn to leave a large gap between said clamping plungers (105B) and said anvil member (103) allowing the
15 instrument (101) to be removed from the joint, and
 b) when said operating member is moved in said second direction, the mechanism is re-set in readiness for a new movement in said first direction.

- 20 9. Anastomotic instrument (101) according to claim 8, characterized by means, such as a spring, adapted to move said operating member in said second direction, as soon as the force moving it in said first direction is removed.

- 25 10. Anastomotic instrument (1; 101) according to any one or any of the claims 2-9, characterized in that at least one of the mutually cooperating clamping surfaces on said anvil member (3; 103) and the said second elongate
30 member (5; 105, 105A, 105B) are modified to improve the gripping effect on the tissue parts (10, 12) to be joined.

11. Anastomotic instrument according to claim 10, characterized in that said mutually cooperating clamping

surfaces are roughened or embossed with a grip-improving pattern.

- 5 12. Anastomotic instrument according to claim 10, characterized in that said mutually cooperating clamping surfaces are provided with elastically flexible fins or fingers (13) in the relaxed state extending obliquely inwardly (Figure 13).

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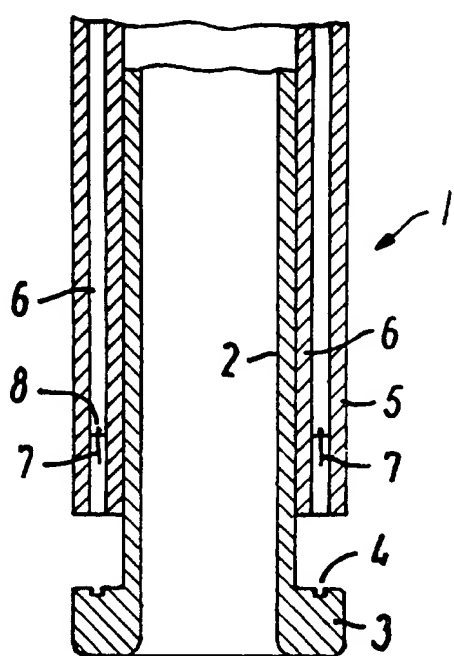


FIG. 1

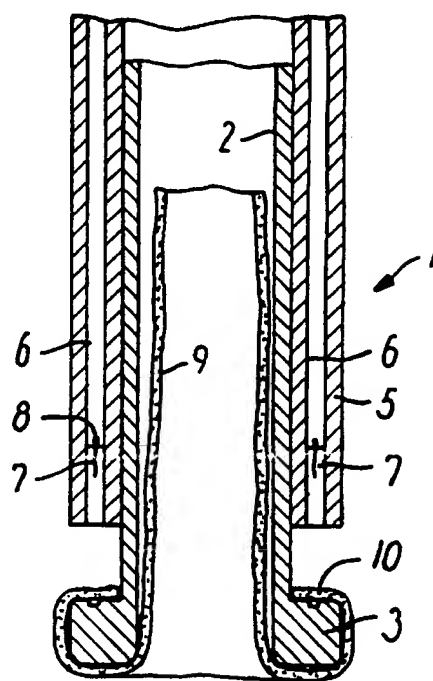


FIG. 2

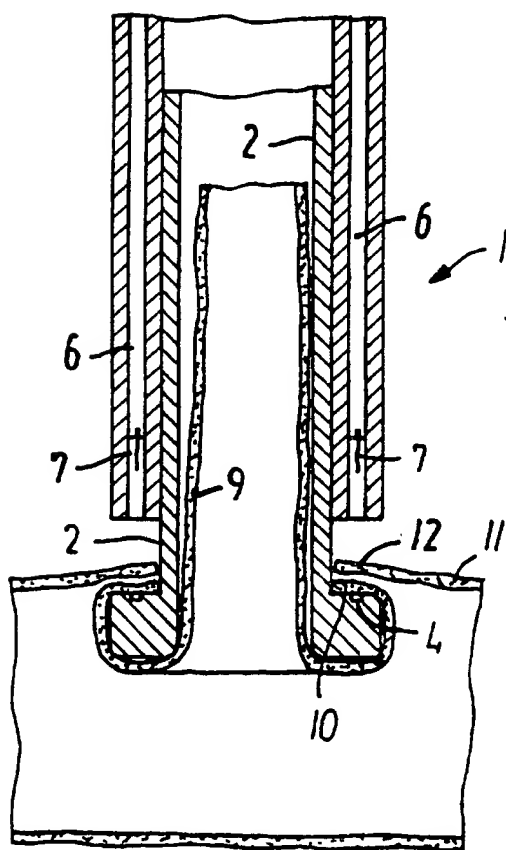


FIG. 3

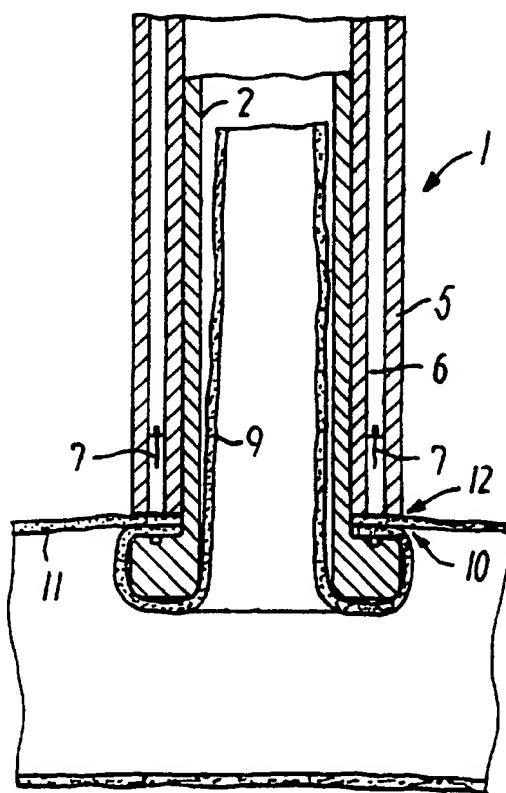


FIG. 4

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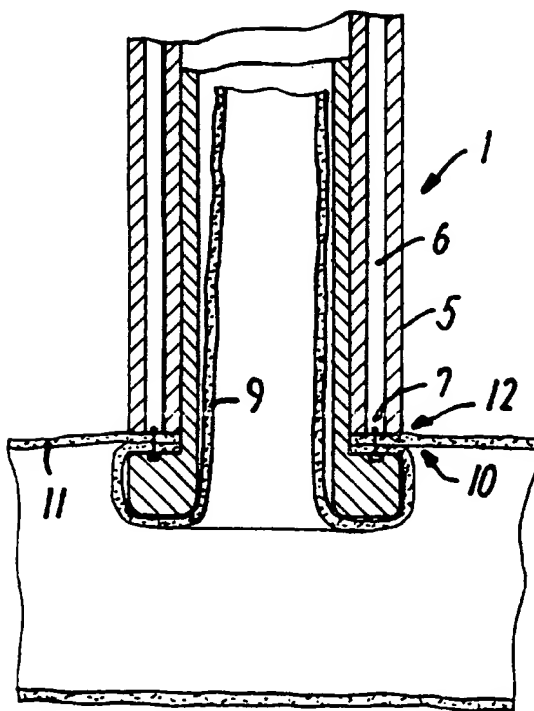


FIG. 5

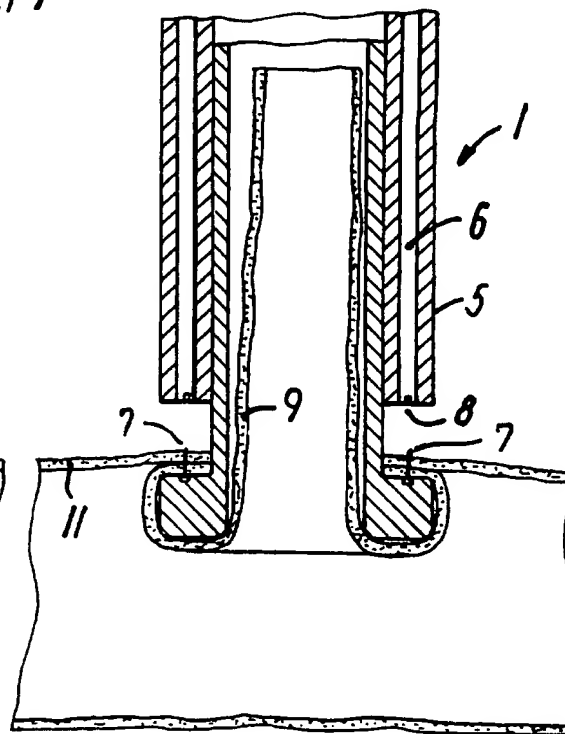


FIG. 6

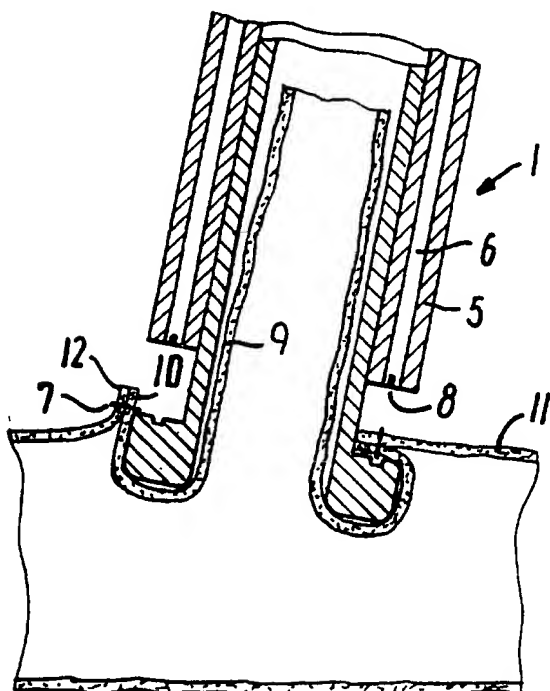


FIG. 7

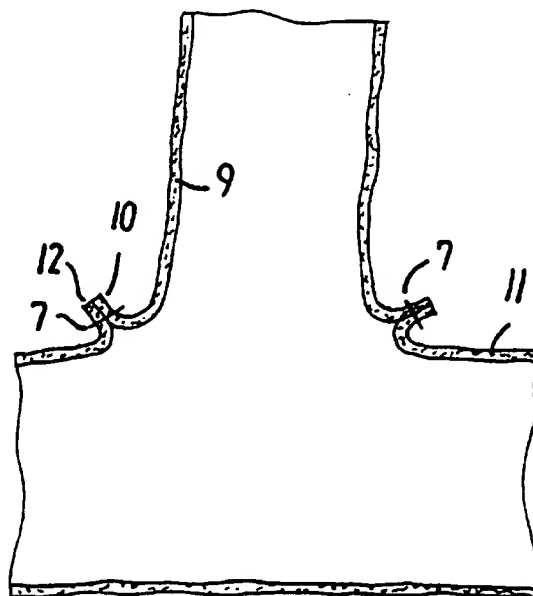
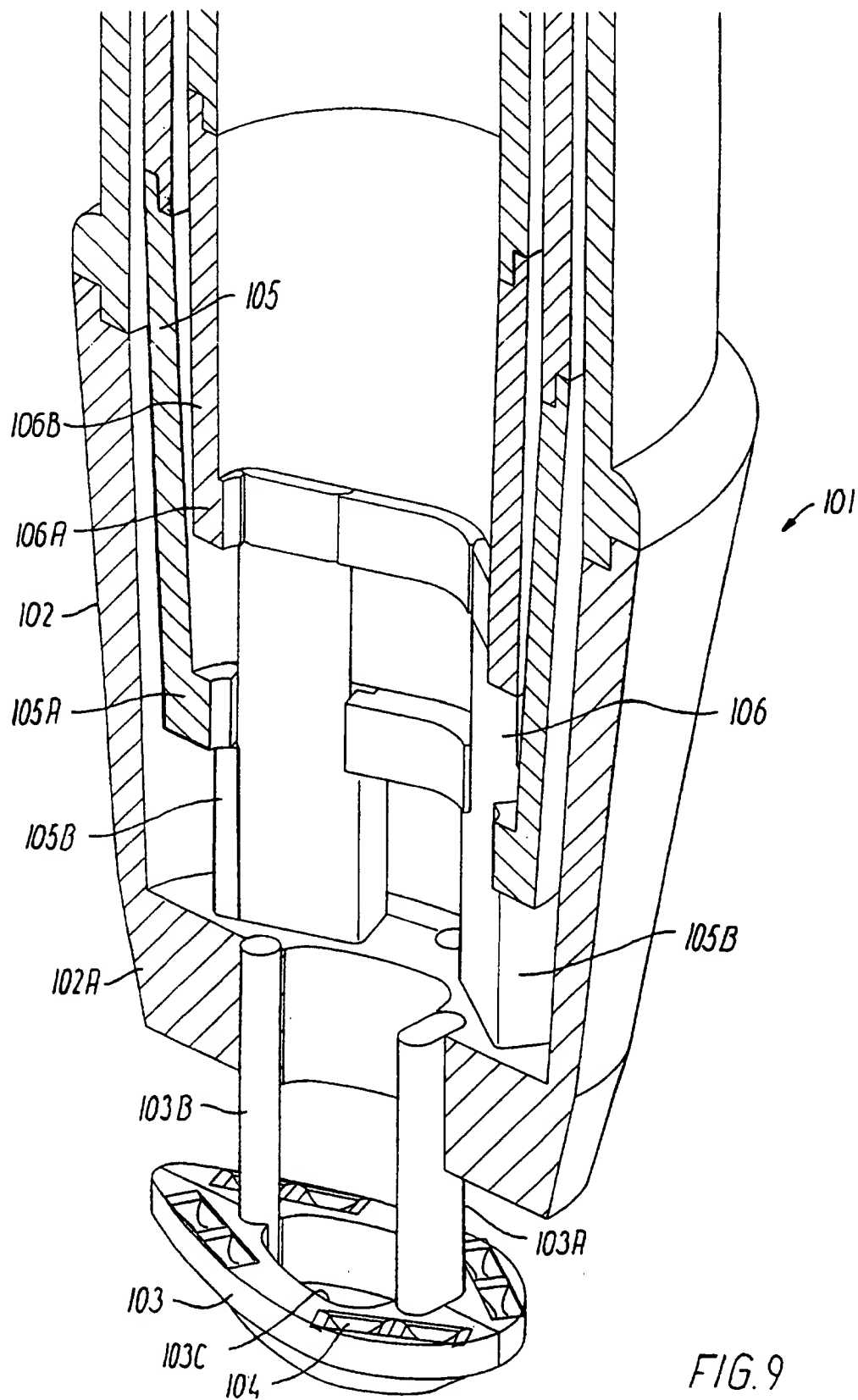
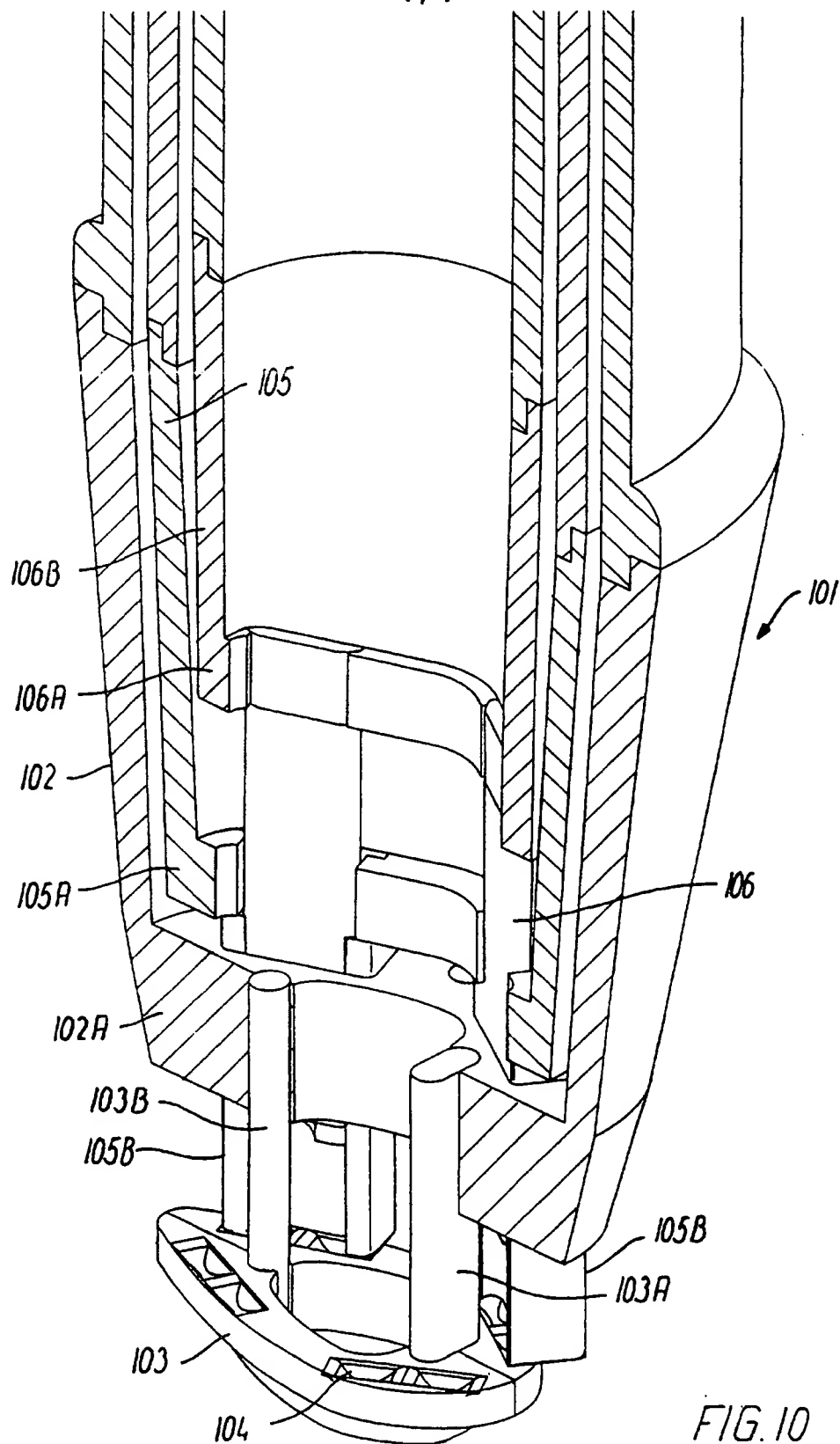


FIG. 8

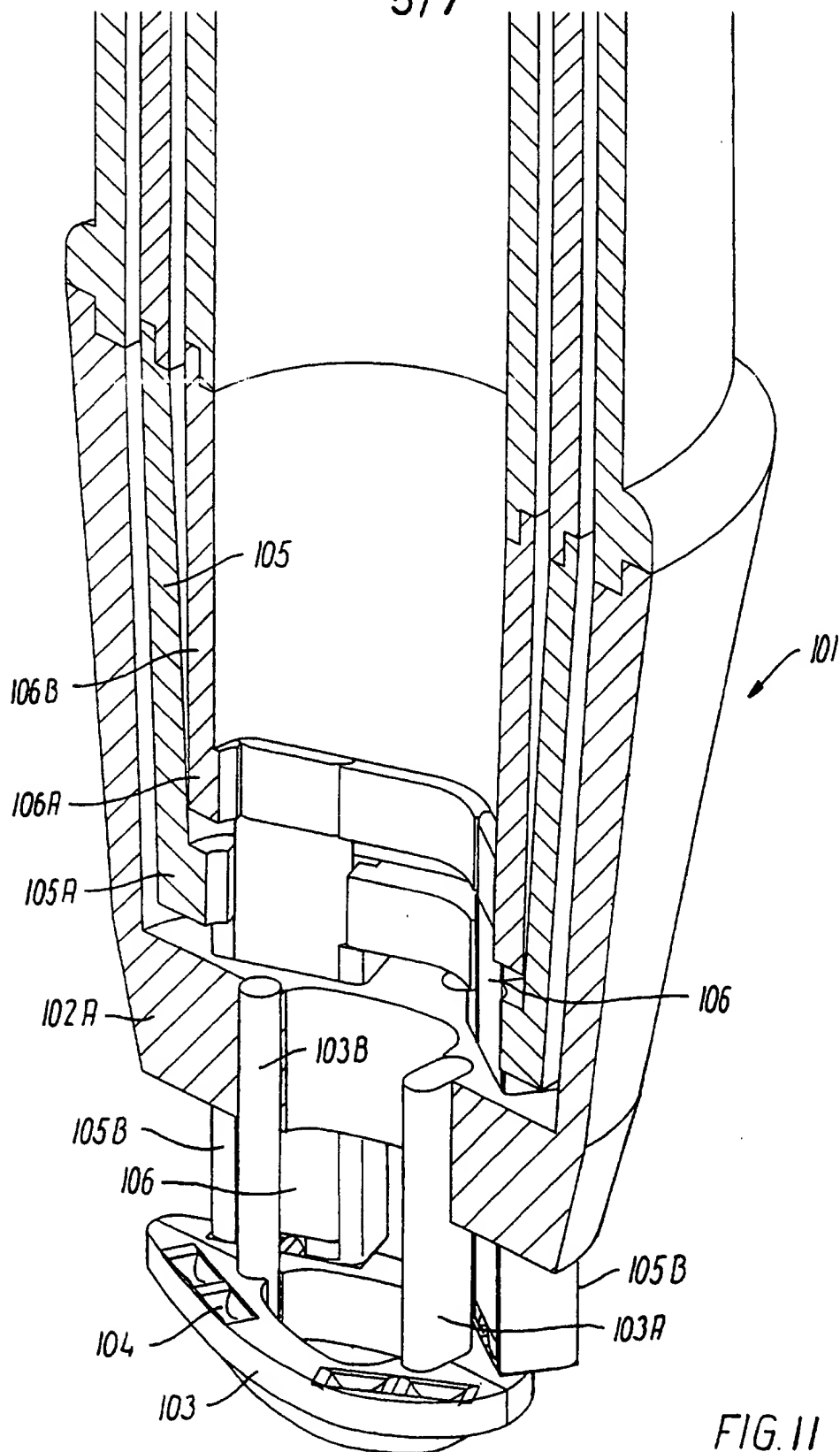
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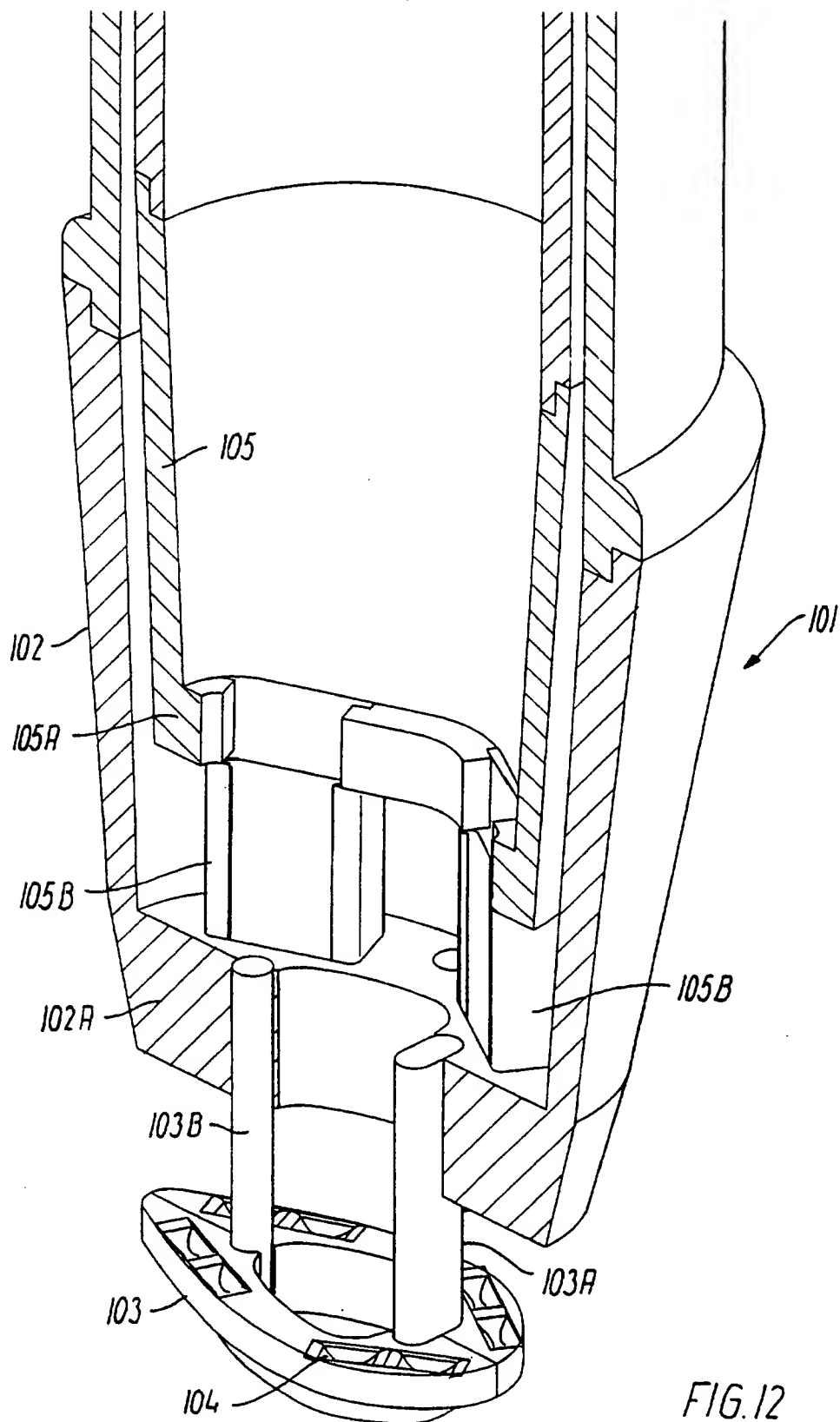


FIG. 12

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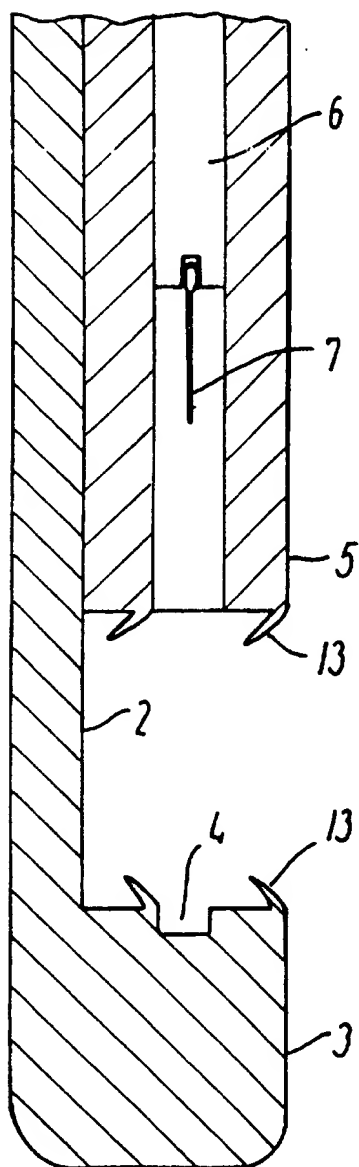


FIG. 13

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 95/00430

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61B 17/115

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5366462 A (R.L. KASTER ET AL), 22 November 1994 (22.11.94), see whole document --	2-12
A	EP 0554990 A1 (TZAKIS, ANDREAS G.), 11 August 1993 (11.08.93), column 5, line 1 - line 30, figure 8, abstract --	2-12
A	EP 0270260 A1 (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORPORATION), 8 June 1988 (08.06.88), page 5, column 7, line 14 - line 55, abstract -- -----	2,4-9

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- * "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- * "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- * "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- * "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- * "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

* "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

* "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

* "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

* "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 July 1996

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 -07- 1996

Authorized officer

Håkan Sandh
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 95/00430

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
A method for treatment of the human body by surgery. This is a subject matter which the international searching Authority is not required to search (Article 17(2)(a)(i) and Rule 39(iv))
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

01/07/96

International application No.

PCT/DK 95/00430

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 5366462	22/11/94	AU-A- 4803593 WO-A- 9504503 US-A- 5234447 US-A- 5403333 EP-A- 0713373	28/02/95 16/02/95 10/08/93 04/04/95 29/05/96
EP-A1- 0554990	11/08/93	CA-A- 2088184 JP-A- 6022972 US-A- 5188638	07/08/93 01/02/94 23/02/93
EP-A1- 0270260	08/06/88	CA-A- 1272930 DE-A- 3782009 US-A- 4776506	21/08/90 05/11/92 11/10/88